



Indiana bat

Myotis sodalis

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Mammalia
Order: Chiroptera
Family: Vespertilionidae

Features

The small (total length $2 \frac{3}{4}$ to $3 \frac{7}{8}$ inches, including a tail that's $1 \frac{1}{8}$ to two inches long) Indiana bat has a short forearm. The hair is black on the lower two-thirds, gray on the outer one-third, and cinnamon at the tip. The hair on the foot does not extend past the toes. The fur on the back appears dull.

Natural History

The Indiana bat lives in a cave or mine in the winter. About 90 percent of these bats hibernate in just a few caves in Missouri, Kentucky, and southern Indiana. In summer, females seek dead trees with loose bark or live trees with shaggy bark in which to rest and raise their young. Females tend to forage around water, over floodplain trees, and in and around wooded areas. Males forage among trees. The Indiana bat is an insectivore eating mostly moths, caddisflies, leafhoppers, planthoppers, and beetle larvae. Mating occurs in fall, winter, or spring. Females mating in the fall and winter store sperm in the uterus until spring,

when the eggs are fertilized. Females leave the wintering site in April. Young are born in June or July. The Indiana bat may live for more than 10 years. It is the only federally endangered mammal in Iowa.

Habitats

Mississippi River; bottomland forests; interior rivers and streams

Iowa Status

federally endangered; native

Most bats hibernate in very large clusters in a few areas in Missouri, Indiana, and Kentucky. Loss of any of the few remaining over-wintering sites could devastate the population.

Iowa Range

southern two-thirds of Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.